(b) to (d) The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereals Development Programme in rice based cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) to increase rice production in the country including that of Basmati rice. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro Managment Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000. ICDP-Rice is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh also. However, Andhra Pradesh doesn't grow Basmati rice.

Revamping NAIS

1197. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Common Minimum Programme has assured to revamp the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the mid term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan recommends crop insurance with special concessions for the farmers in low rainfall areas;

(c) the concrete steps taken to implement the same; and

(d) whether these are likely to come into effect from the ensuing Kharif season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per Mid Term Appraisal of 10th Five Plan, actuarial premium rates in the regions with low and erratic rainfall are likely to be high, therefore, special budgetary subsidy might be necessary for these regions.

A Joint Group was constituted by the Government to suggest the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The joint Group examined all the related issues including application of actuarial premium rates and provision of premium subsidy. The Joint Group has already submitted its report. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Joint Group, the Government, at present, is in the process of reviewing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). However, in the ensuing Kharif season, i.e. Kharif 2006, NAIS will continue to remain in operation in the existing pattern.